(c) No general complaints about the schemes have been received nor has any difficulty been faced in implementing the Scheme.

(d) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

Statement

The details of benefits available to exporters holding Export House, Trading House, Star Trading House and Super Star Trading House Status arc given as under:—

i) special Import Licence either on FOB or NTE earned basis for imports of items listed in appendix XXXV of the Hand-Book of Procedures under normal Customs duty as per entitlement in terms of Para 217 A(a) of the Handbook of Procedures, Vol. I.

ii) As per entitlement, Import of Car is also allowed in terms of Para 217 A(e) of Handbook of Procedures Vol. I on normal customs duty payable in free foreign exchange out of status holders exchange earnings foreign currency (EEFC) accounts once in five years, against their valid status certificate for their official use, against their own Special Import Licence.

iii) As per Para 217 A(d) of the Handbook of Procedures Vol. 1 Import of gold & silver Against concessional rates of customs duty in free foreign exchange, provided the importer is an EEFC account holder and customs duty is paid in free foreign exchange out of EEFC account.

iv) Market Development Assistance for export promotional activities abroad.

v) Facility of submitting legal undertaking instead of Bank Guarantee to import duty free raw-materials/capital goods for the purpose of manufacturing items of exports under Duty Exemption Scheme and EPDG Scheme respectively.

vi) Green channel facility as contemplated in Para 21 B of the Policy and detailed in Para 22B of the Handbook of Procedures Vol. I.

Beedi Workers

4. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated number of beedi workers covered under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme;

(b) the number of hospitals and dispensaries that cater to the health needs of beedi workers; and

(c) the steps taken to provide benefits of welfare schemes to beedi workers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) There are about 22,000 beedi workers covered under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme.

(b) 155 Dispensaries including one Chest Clinic and 3 hospitals have been set up under the Beedi Workers' Welfare Fund for providing medical services to the beedi workers.

(c) Several steps have been taken to bring about qualitative and quantitative improvement in the welfare schemes for the beedi workers. These include all round increase in the amount of educational scholarships and the number of scholarships given 100% increase in the financial norm for purchase of medicines, major increase in the quantum of financial assistance for construction of houses etc.